

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 19, 1880, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. from Elsie Atlantic City, N. J. June 19th. 1880. My darling Alec:

Your note enclosing all sorts of delightful things was very welcome and made me very happy. Did you read Mamma's letter? Somehow they have all left a feeling of sadness in my mind, especially any reference to my dear Father. I feel as though Mamma were half unconsciously and indirectly trying to change what she feels your unjust opinion of Papa. I may be all wrong but it does seem to me as if Mamma were unhappy about you and Papa, and poor little Mamma she has had so much to bear and to worry her. I feel as if they were both trying very hard to do everything they could for you. O Alec dear if you would but write to them. I would spare you from my side, hard as it is, if you would but write to them, if not to Papa because of the questions that must be opened, then to Mamma. Just a bright, kind, loving, playful letter, such as you write to me so often. Nothing I could do or say would give her so much pleasure as that. Please do my darling for my sake and her's, she has done so much for you, and you do not know how much she loves you. I don't believe she could love you better if you were her own son. O Alec will you not take me to Europe, I am sure this is the time of all others for you to see and meet all the great thinkers. There are so many of them now, we don't know how soon they may go from your reach, or pass from their grand prime. I telegraphed you to cable Papa about the Volta Prize because 2 if the French Government has notified you of the receipt your non-acknowledgement must seem very rude, and I think they must have done so from what Mamma says about Count Moncel. You remember those French papers you received but did not read so long ago. Never mind whose fault it was you didn't. It can't be helped and is not to the point, the fact remains, the Government either did notify you or it is not the custom to do so and the prize taker is expected to apply for it, and after such a long time

Library of Congress

it is surely right and necessary you should take some notice of it. Perhaps Count Moncel would be the person to cable to, but cable to Papa anyway he is evidently anxious and Mamma must be worrying. I am watching the telegraph office hoping to hear from you about the success of your trip to Oakland, do let me know yes or no. Several answers have come to the Philadelphia Advertisement, one from the mistress herself, the girl a Canadian her former employer lives here, so I will try and find him out at once, she is just the right age too. One answer is signed "Your faithful Nurse" (!!) another beautifully written says she is a widow of "advanced age." I don't think I want one so old.

Dinner time, so adieu my own darling, Mabel.